

Message Text

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72

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XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 /110 W

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R 231430Z JAN 75

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3205

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

CINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L LOURENCO MARQUES 0085

FOR STATE AND AID

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, SWEL, EAID, EFIN, PO, MZ

SUBJECT: VIEWS OF PRIME MINISTER'S AIDE ON ECONOMIC AND
POLITICAL PROBLEMS OF MOZAMBIQUE

1. IN SEEKING GOVERNMENT APPOINTMENTS FOR CODEL DIGGS AND
PHELPS-STOKES GROUPS, CONGEN OFFICER MET WITH LUIS HONWANA,
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PRIME MINISTER CHIASSANO'S AIDE, WHO PROMISED EARLY REPLY ON

APPOINTMENTS AND THEN PROVIDED FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

(A) SECURITY SITUATION, PRIMARY CONCERN OF GOVERNMENT INITIALLY, APPEARS UNDER CONTROL THROUGHOUT MOZAMBIQUE. LOURENCO MARQUES AND BEIRA BOTH SECURE.

(B) EXODUS OF PORTUGUESE IS HAVING SERIOUS EFFECT ON EFFICIENT FUNCTIONING OF GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE BUSINESSES. ALTHOUGH CRASH TRAINING PROGRAMS INITIATED IN MANY AREAS, GAPS NOT BEING MET. GOVERNMENT ALSO FACES PROBLEM OF NOT BEING ABLE TO REPLACE OFFICIALS WITH "COLONIALIST MENTALITY" OR EVEN OF BEING ABLE TO CONTROL THEM, DUE TO INSUFFICIENT EXPERTISE IN AREAS UNDER THEIR COMPETENCE. (COMMENT: PORTS AND RAILROADS DIRECTOR PINTO TEIXEIRA MAY BE ONE OF THESE EXPERTS WITH COLONIAL MENTALITY GOVERNMENT WOULD LIKE TO CONTROL.)

(C) GOVERNMENT HAS STABILIZED FAMINE SITUATION IN BEIRA AND TETE BY DIVERTING FOOD SUPPLIES TO THOSE AREAS. NO ONE HAS DIED OF HUNGER. UN HAS BEEN APPROACHED FOR ASSISTANCE IN REFUGEE PROBLEM IN TETE AREA.

(D) MYRIAD VISITING DELEGATIONS SEEKING ASSIST MOZAMBIQUE ALL DEMAND STATISTICS FOR ECONOMIC ANALYSIS. MEANINGFUL AND RELIABLE STATISTICS DO NOT EXIST AND DID NOT EXIST EVEN UNDER PORTUGUESE COLONIAL GOVERNMENT. STATISTICS BEING PUBLISHED BY MOZAMBIQUE STATISTICAL SERVICES ARE "ALL LIES".

(E) CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS WITH PORTUGUESE ECONOMIC-FINANCIAL DELEGATION ARE PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT FOR MOZAMBIQUE. MAIN DISCUSSIONS CENTER ON: (1) ESTABLISHMENT OF MOZAMBIQUE CENTRAL BANK IN HOPE PERMITTING MOZAMBIQUE TO OBTAIN FOREIGN COMMERCIAL CREDIT WITHOUT RELYING ON GUARANTEE FROM PORTUGAL. PROBLEM WITH COMMERCIAL WHEAT ORDER FROM U.S. UNDOUBTEDLY DUE TO GOP UNWILLINGNESS TO GIVE GUARANTEE, WHICH IN PAST WOULD HAVE BEEN PRO-FORMA. MOZAMBIQUE, IN ANY CASE, IS DETERMINED TO BREAK UMBILICAL CORD WITH METROPOLE; (2) PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL SERVING IN MOZAMBIQUE, SUBJECT WHICH IS COMPLICATED BY ISSUE OF NATIONALITY (I.E. BLACK MOZAMBICAN CIVIL SERVANTS MAY OPT FOR PORTUGUESE NATIONALITY FOR SECURITY REASONS).

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WM COMMENT: HONWANA, A NOTED MOZAMBIQUE AUTHOR, IS BRIGHT, FRANK AND FRIENDLY. DESPITE EXAGGERATION, WE AGREE ESSENTIALLY WITH HIS SKEPTICISM RE VALUE OF MOZAMBIQUE ECONOMIC STATISTICS, MOST OF WHICH ARE EVEN LESS USEFUL BECAUSE OF DELAY IN COMPILEMENT.

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